



**The House of Representatives
STATE OF HAWAII**

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release – June 23, 2006

Contact: Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu
T. 808-586-8490

UHPA Names Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu 2006 Legislator of the Year

HONOLULU. The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly's (UHPA) today announced that State Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu has been named as the organization's 2006 Legislator of the Year.

"Representative Karamatsu's efforts to inform the public about the legislature and the legislative process have always been outstanding," said John Radcliffe, Associate Director of UHPA. "We have been among the many recipients of legislative organizational charts, data bases and informational supplements that have been prepared and distributed by Representative Karamatsu and his staff since he was first elected in 2002. These supplements have been essential tools, and the information has been used by hundreds of individuals and organizations that have participated in the legislative process. We felt that Representative Karamatsu's 'above and beyond' efforts to inform the public were worthy of recognition and acknowledgement."

On behalf of UHPA, Radcliffe also honored Rep. Karamatsu's office manager, Baron Gushiken, with an award for Outstanding Legislative Staff Service. It is the first time that UHPA has given a legislative staff award. In addition, the UHPA Legislator of the Year award is only given when the work of a legislator is considered "truly deserving."

Representative Karamatsu acknowledged that his office has developed an email distribution list of nearly 900 addresses. The list represents organizations opposing as well as supporting his vote on issues before the legislature, and has incrementally grown over the time he has been in office.

(more)

UHPA 2006 Legislator of the Year

Page 2

June 23, 2006

"My office sends out these supplements to people I have met or were referred to in order to encourage and empower their participation in the legislative process," explained Karamatsu. "We provide this information to both Republican and Democratic colleagues in the House and Senate so they can also inform their constituents and networks."

The information disseminated from Rep. Karamatsu has long been appreciated throughout the community. On March 11, 2003, the Hawaii Pro-Democracy Initiative awarded Rep. Karamatsu's office with a "Bouquet of Flowers" as part of its *LegiWatch 2003 Program*. Bouquets are awarded for good deeds to help improve the legislative process, and his office was recognized for distributing electronic lists of useful legislative information.

Karamatsu also noted, "I have supported legislation to protect important genetic and life science research that some organizations and individuals wanted prohibited. Research is research. Intellectual curiosity ought to be encouraged by government, and what better place to do that than the University of Hawaii? I also believe the University of Hawaii's research programs will create more jobs and diversify Hawaii's economy. The institution is playing a huge role in strengthening our information society."

"We are grateful and humbled by the kind gesture of this fine organization, in addition to their recent endorsement of my re-election," concluded Rep. Karamatsu.

For more information, contact 586-8490 or email repkaramatsu@capitol.hawaii.gov.